

18 February 1975

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Executive Council Meeting on 4 February 1975

Mr. Proctor chaired. [redacted] substituted. Also attending were Messrs. [redacted]

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1. Mr. Colby attended the meeting and reported on the various investigations of the Agency. He said that there were no "massive" domestic operations, and he is encouraged that the matter is now being seen in better perspective. He intends to emphasize to the investigators the importance of intelligence to peace and security. He thinks the outcome will be positive if, as a result of the hearings, Congress clarifies the Agency's role and provides for the protection of sources and methods.

2. He will try to establish ground rules for the hearings that will avoid public disclosure of such sensitive matters as names of agents, technical systems, etc. He does not believe anyone in the Agency committed a crime, and he does not want employees' names to appear in the press in ways that are harmful to them.

3. In response to questions, Mr. Colby said that:

-- The ground rules he will discuss with the committees will include a system of numbered identifies; true names will be supplied to the chairmen when necessary. He hopes the committees will enforce these ground rules where ex-employees are concerned.

-- He thinks the investigations will be quite thorough.

-- With regard to possible reorganizations resulting from the investigations, he thinks the changes already introduced put us a bit ahead of the issue. He does believe we will be more active in the future in providing intelligence to Congress.

4. Various Executive Council members observed that:

-- The Agency needs to improve its internal management to ensure strict adherence to the rules. Mr. Colby agreed, saying that the Inspector General's staff will have to be strengthened, and that a strong chain of command is essential.

-- Minimizing past errors detracts from employees' confidence that ethical standards are being maintained. Employees should feel they have a responsibility to object if they feel the Agency is acting improperly.

-- Overt employees are worried, never knowing when other questionable activities will come to light. Their confidence in the integrity of the organization has been shaken. Mr. Colby acknowledged that a few activities have not been made public, although they have been reported to the Congressional Oversight Committees. He emphasized that all these activities have been discontinued.

5. In conclusion, he urged employees to resist the temptation to point the finger at other parts of the Agency. In the long run, the Agency's most important asset is the impressive quality of the intelligence it produces. He asked that all employees work hard to maintain these high standards.

6. Mr. Proctor said that as far as he is concerned, the investigations are not to be a finger-pointing exercise, and that provoking controversy among directorates will damage the Agency as a whole.

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